

THE ORANGEBURG TIMES.

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LARGE CIRCULATION IN THE COUNTY.

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NOZAVIA. All articles intended for publication in the Times, must be accompanied with the signature of the author; not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of

good faith, surely trust you, sir!

License Law. The theory of all government is that the necessity of the safety and

leads to political union, the better protection of the rights of man by nature. This political union, first, has its origin in the desire of

the people, next, is established by the law of the people, and has for its object the preservation of the natural rights of the individual, and contract. The go-

vernment is supreme control in their repre-

sentatives, with the mutual under-

standing that they shall only so use such

supreme power as is necessary for the better preservation and protection of the

liberties of the people, and any infringement of these natural rights, other than

is absolutely necessary to the welfare of

the whole is a violation of the contract, which license law, ceases to be in any

way obligatory upon the government. This is what we mean when we say that a law is unconstitutional, the Constitution being the basis on which the su-

preme power is by the governed entrusted by the delegates accepted; it is to

it that we look for the test of the legality of all laws. It is the protection of the

people, and the exercise or abuse of their

delegates power upon the natural rights of person, protection, personal freedom and unrestricted enjoyment of

property; in the surrender of which rights the people are naturally very jeal-

ous.

This theory we see, unmistakably set

forth both in the original agreement of

the old confederation, as it was called, and the Constitution of the United States, as well as our present State Constitution.

The first says:

"Article IV. Each State retains its

sovereignty, freedom and independence,

and every power, jurisdiction and right,

which is not by this confederation ex-

pressly delegated to the United States,

in Congress assembled.

The second says:

"Article IX. The enumeration in the

Constitution, of certain rights, shall not

be construed to deny or disparage others

retained by the people. And,

"Article X. The powers not delegat-

ed to the United States by the Constitu-

tion, nor prohibited by it to the States,

are reserved to the States respectively,

or to the people."

Our State Constitution says in Article

I: "and securing and preserving the

"Section 44. The enumeration of

rights in this Constitution shall not be

construed to impair or deny others re-

tained by the people, and all powers not

herein delegated remain with the people;

And,

"Section III. All political power is

vested in and derived from the people

"only; therefore they have the right at

all times to modify their form of govern-

ment in such manner as they may deem

expedient when the public good de-

mands."

These are the protective clauses com-

mon to all constitutions. They are the

safeguards of the people against legisla-

tive usurpation and tyranny, the anima-

vitae of the contract between our repre-

sentatives and the people, who are set

forth as the fountain whence all political

power must take its source.

The rest of a constitution is designed

to set forth with jealous precision how

many and in how far the sovereign

people are willing to forego the absolute

exercise of these natural rights in ex-

change for political protection, protec-

tion and not robbery.

These restrictions on the constitutional

To this point our State Constitution

Article I, Section 36—All men are born free and equal, subjected by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are the rights of enjoying and defending their lives and liberties, of acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and seeking and obtaining their safety and happiness.

Section 36.—All property subject to taxation shall be taxed in proportion.

Each individual of society has a right to be protected in the enjoyment of life, liberty and property, according to standing laws. He should, therefore, contribute his share to the expense of his protection, and give his personal service when necessary.

Section 27. No bill of attainder, ex post facto law, nor any law impairing the obligation of contracts shall ever be enacted:

Article IX, Section 1.—The General Assembly shall provide by law a uniform and equal rate of taxation.

Section 17. The General Assembly shall provide for an annual tax sufficient to defray the expenses of the State for each year:

Section IV.—No tax shall be levied except in pursuance of a law which shall distinctly state the object of the same; in which object such tax shall be apportioned.

Article XXV, Section 1.—Says any proposed amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the State.

These are the safeguards afforded us by the Constitution against legislative robbery. And we confidently assert that there's not one of these which is not either directly or indirectly violated by this infernal license law.

First, it is either taxes in disguise or it is not taxes. If not then, the Legisla-

ture has no right delegated by the

Constitution to raise money by estab-

lishing a general license system, and such

right remains in the people until ceded

by them, which can only be done in

amendment by vote of the qualified elec-

tors polled at a general election, and until

such time the execution of such law is

an illegal robbing it out of such prop-

erty as he has a right to acquire and pos-

sess, as contributing to his safety and

happiness, and that also of his family.

The question is not whether the Assem-

bly are prohibited in the Constitution

from passing a license law, but whether

the passage of such law is not an infringement

upon the rights retained by the people,

not being delegated in the Constitu-

tion. We think it is an infringe-

ment of reserved rights, for the money

proposed to be raised is declared in each

section of the law to be for the use of

the State, and the only means permitted

the General Assembly in the Constitu-

tion, by which they can raise money to

"defray the expenses of the State," is by

"uniform tax sufficient." It therefore

seems to us plain that this license law

must be a tax, as the money is for the

State, or it is an unconstitutional imposi-

tion, a bare-faced attempt to legalize

robbery.

Second, Cooley on constitutional limita-

tions says: "License laws are of two

kinds: those which require the payment

of a license fee by way of raising a rev-

enue, and are therefore the exercise of

the power of taxation; and again: all proper-

ty subject to taxation shall be taxed in pro-

pportion. Each individual having the

right to protection should therefore

contribute his share." And under

these restrictions their power is

further restricted to "one annual tax

which shall be sufficient to meet the

liabilities of the State, together with the

"poll tax not to exceed one dollar, which

shall be applied exclusively to the public

school fund." Such is the constitutional

unit to the power of taxation of the

sovereign, and any excess beyond

that the law is unconstitutional.

The act by which it is proposed to use these excessive taxes necessary to defray the expenses of the State, together with the capitation tax, was enacted the same day as this license law, and is from a separate act. The constitution requires that it shall be sufficient. What

then can be the design of this general

law, which demands money for

the use of the State, already legally and

constitutionally sufficiently provided for?

Why discourage enterprise by fixing capital and strangle success by stealing profits? Why tax the same employment differently in different localities in some instances, and in other cases for employments identical, indifferently, under similar circumstances?

Why apportion the pay of State officers in one act and in another, instead of the same day, tax them on their salaries?

The latter we may answer from the unwritten constitution of political affairs.

It is evidently an "ante" in tax policy, made in anticipation of having a "full hand" to "show" in a reckless game of political "brig" by all concerned in the shuffle of the political cards.

It is with great diffidence that we venture to bring before our readers our views of this vitally important matter. We feel that it is properly the province of much older and more experienced heads than we have at our disposal.

But we believe ourselfs to be correct, and for truth are at all times willing to stand before the public.

The law is usurpativ in the extreme—conceived in the spirit of robbery, and enacted, we believe, mainly through ignorance on the part of the General Assembly.

It should be resisted.

The Testament.

This is still the all absorbing topic of interest among the young people of the town and county. As we said last week, several names have been added to the list of parties who reside outside of the county. Other counties will also contribute a quota to the array of beauty and accomplishments which will grace the frolic, and encourage the knights to their deeds of high emprise. Some little degree of excitement prevails among the softer sex, who are dubious as to how they may acquitted themselves in the role as round dances; for, it is known to the credit of this community, the prevalence of piety and a more strict observance of church doctrines has not permitted a too luxuriant growth of idle cards, and the giddy mazes of the light fantastic. Fortunately, however, for the lovers of the ball, the pleasant anticipation of Muller's Band, the natural desire of ladies to assist all man's efforts to make life happy, and the ease with which they attain all graceful combination of motion, have combined to induce them to practice in order that they shall agreeably acquit themselves even in this part of the programme.

Last Wednesday, after the meeting of the knights, which was held by previous appointment, had taken place, an accident occurred by which a horse's neck was broken and the rider, Mr. George D. Sellers, it was at first feared, was seriously hurt. It appears that Mr. Sellers, not being satisfied at the time made by him during the tilt, determined to try it over, and see whether he could make the required distance in the allotted time. This he accomplished easily, but having pressed his horse to a pretty full speed, and being unacquainted with the ground, he reined him too shortly to the left. There the horse getting into soft ground under headway, and somewhat unbalanced by the short turn, was unable to recover himself, and in his effort to do so, fell forward on the side of his neck and broke it, turning completely over. Mr. Sellers came to the ground with him, and being quite a heavy man, the consequence was very severe. Fortunately, however, there was no contusion, and after suffering severely for some hours, and talking wildly to the great relief of his friends, he has recovered without

further serious result to himself, we hope, than the loss of a very valuable horse.

From what we can learn, the accident

was owing to Mr. Muller not being

thoroughly posted as to the nature of the field.

We append below a list of the

knights in the order in which they will

ride, together with the characters, so far

as decided. The order was decided by drawing:

KNIGHTS.

Appleton, S. D. Dantler,

Creamwood, Dr. M. G. Valley,

Hang Syne, Danl. Zimmerman, Rithard XIV.,